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09/501,202	02/10/2000	Edward Klein	104141-0004	3531

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EXAMINER

VOLPER, THOMAS E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

2665

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600
 HUY D. VU
 SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
 TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Contrary to Applicant's argument, Higgins does provide for operating a node as a pass through for traffic. In the quotation submitted by Applicant (page 3 of the "Remarks") Higgins discloses "...a final verification is performed to ascertain that the new node or nodes as well as the neighbor nodes have open ports. Thereafter, the new node can be configured to transmit and receive packets.." This meets the limitation of operating as a pass through for traffic since the open ports on the newly inserted nodes and neighbor nodes provide a path through which traffic may pass. Applicant admits that this allows "the new node(s) to exchange configuration and verification messages with the host node" (page 3 - page 4 of "Remarks"). Exchanging these messages meets the limitation of passing traffic through the node. Applicant also argues that Chan does not teach determining that a node has failed, and removing the failed node (page 6 of "Remarks"). Chan provides for detecting link failures and deleting a node. It is obvious that if a node was the cause of a link failure, the node would be deleted in that case. .